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**SPOTLIGHT ON GENEVA:** The gathering crowd

# 'Hell, no,' Cap won't go

## Ron nixes idea that leak was summitry sabotage

By **BARBARA REHM and BRUCE DRAKE**

News Washington Bureau

**GENEVA**—While the Soviet camp here looked on with delight, an irritated President Reagan yesterday rejected suggestions that someone was trying to sabotage tomorrow's summit by leaking advice from Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger to hang tough on arms control.

Reagan also bluntly put to rest the inevitable question about whether he would fire Weinberger for pressing his hard-line views too vigorously at a delicate moment in superpower relations.

"Hell, no!" Reagan barked to newsmen as he walked from his villa to a nearby building on a gray and chilly afternoon for a meeting with senior aides.

Weinberger, who was left out of the U.S. delegation here, has flatly denied being the source of the leak.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev arrives here today and tomorrow begins the two days of meetings with Reagan.

A leading Soviet spokesman here had a field day with the Weinberger flap. Georgi Arbatov, one of Gorbachev's close advisers, called the Weinberger letter a "direct attempt to torpedo the whole arms control process."

### Kremlin 'dismayed'

Clearly anxious to comment on the affair, Arbatov said at a briefing that the Kremlin was "dismayed" by Weinberger's views, adding that they "seem to bear out" the opinion in Moscow that Reagan's policies are strongly influenced by conservatives and the "military-industrial complex."

In the leaked letter, Weinberger urged Reagan to resist pressures to formally

### THE SUMMIT



### Countdown

agree to abide by the SALT-2 arms pact after this year because it would hinder the President's ability to respond to Soviet violations.

Reagan answered with an emphatic "No!" when asked if he agreed with a senior aide who suggested the leak was an effort by arms control hard-liners in the administration to sabotage any compromise on nuclear weapons.

Seeking to put an end to the story, the President expressed doubt that any of his aides had made the sabotage statement.

### Figment of imagination?

"I'm wondering if that individual is not a figment of someone in the press' imagination," he said.

But White House spokesman Larry Speakes said earlier he was "sure" the official in question had expressed his opinion directly to the President.

Reporters aboard Air Force One on the flight here had asked the official wheth-

er the leak amounted to sabotage and he answered, "On background, sure it was." The only two officials who talked with reporters on the plane were Speakes and national security adviser Robert McFarlane.

Some of the same administration officials who deplored the Weinberger letter opposing an extension of SALT-2 made clear that, in any case, Reagan was unlikely to reach such an agreement at this summit.

### He'll decide back home

Speakes said Reagan would not decide until he returned to Washington and got the views of the State Department, Central Intelligence Agency and other experts, in addition to Weinberger.

Reagan's decision will be "dependent on Soviet compliance, the rate of the Soviet buildup and the status of arms control negotiations," Speakes said.

"At the same time, the President will take into consideration the Soviet attitude in his discussions" with Gorbachev, he added.

Soviet spokesman Arbatov, who heads the Kremlin's U.S.-Canada Institute, said Gorbachev will not be coming to the summit "with empty hands" as far as new arms control ideas. "I trust that Mr. Reagan will not come empty-handed either," he added, "otherwise there is no basis for agreement."